



# Counseling Undocumented Students about Financial Aid

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## What Does It Mean to be Undocumented?

- An individual lacks documents required for immigration or legal residence.
- Individuals may have:
  - Entered the U.S. illegally;
  - Entered the U.S. legally on a temporary basis and stayed after documents expired; or
  - Been brought into the U.S. by someone else.

## Statistics about Undocumented Immigrants

- 75% are from Mexico and Latin America.
- The majority live in California, Texas, New York, Illinois, Florida, and Arizona.
- Other areas have seen significant growth in undocumented population on past 10 to 15 years.
- 1.1 million are children under age 18.
- Four million children are U.S. citizens by birth but have undocumented parents.
- Approximately 65,000 graduate from U.S. high schools each year.

## Eligibility for Federal Aid

### ***Students must be:***

- U.S. citizens or nationals;
- U.S. permanent residents;
- Citizens of the Freely Associated States: Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, and the Marshall Islands; or
- Eligible noncitizens:
  - Persons granted asylum,
  - Persons paroled into the U.S. for at least one year,
  - Refugees,
  - Victims of human trafficking,
  - Battered immigrants-qualified aliens and their designated children,
  - Conditional entrants, and
  - Cuban-Haitian entrants.

### ***Ineligible immigration statuses:***

- Family unity status;
- Temporary residents; and
- Non-immigrant visas, such as work, students, tourists, and foreign government officials.

## State Aid

- Many states have passed legislation that allows undocumented students to pay in-state tuition at public colleges and universities. Here's a partial list:
  - California;
  - Colorado;
  - Connecticut;
  - Florida;
  - Illinois;
  - Kansas;
  - Maryland
  - Minnesota;
  - Nebraska;
  - New Jersey;
  - New Mexico;
  - New York;
  - Oklahoma;
  - Oregon;
  - Rhode Island;
  - Texas;
  - Utah; and
  - Washington;
- Three states have passed legislation prohibiting undocumented students from paying in-state tuition:
  - Arizona;
  - Georgia; and
  - Indiana.
- Two states prohibit undocumented students from enrolling at any public postsecondary institution:
  - Alabama; and
  - South Carolina
- Eligibility criteria:
  - Attend state high school for two to four years;
  - Complete a high school diploma or GED in state;
  - Enroll in a public postsecondary institution; and
  - File affidavit stating intent to legalize status and become permanent resident.
- Models:
  - States redefine residency for purpose of tuition charges; or
  - States make exemptions for payment of out-of-state tuition for certain categories of students.

## Aid from Multiple Sources

- Financial aid is available from a variety of sources for college, career school, graduate school, and professional school: **[Studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types](https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types)**

## Aid from Colleges and Universities

- Institutional scholarship, grant, loan, and work-study programs.
- Varies widely among institutions.
- Scholarship funds come with merit component.

## Aid from Private Sources

- Fast Web: **[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)**.
- Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund: **[www.maldef.org](http://www.maldef.org)**.
- Get Ready for College: **<http://www.getreadyforcollege.org/gPg.cfm?pageID=1586>**.
- Latino College Dollars: **[www.latinocollegedollars.org](http://www.latinocollegedollars.org)**.
- Scholarships for Hispanics: **[www.scholarshipsforhispanics.org](http://www.scholarshipsforhispanics.org)**.
- Genesco Migrant Center: **[www.migrant.net](http://www.migrant.net)**.

## Counseling Undocumented Students

- Provide safe environment.
  - Non threatening;
  - Not required to report status; and
  - Supportive.
- Resources.
  - Be proactive;
  - Be aware of what is available at state and local level; and
  - Conduct counseling with family present.

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